



Department of Justice

United States Attorney Michael J. Sullivan
District of Massachusetts

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FORMER ANDOVER RESIDENT PLEADS GUILTY TO BILKING SENIOR CITIZENS

Boston, MA... A New Jersey man, formerly of Andover, pled guilty today to charges that he defrauded senior citizens out of nearly \$2 million by claiming that he would invest their money when in fact, he spent their money on luxury automobiles, gifts for exotic dancers, gambling and personal expenses.

United States Attorney Michael J. Sullivan and Warren Bamford, Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation - New England Field Division, announced today that **JOHN A. BALDO**, age 39, of Hackensack, New Jersey, plead guilty to mail and wire fraud and a violation of the Investment Advisers Act.

BALDO introduced himself to senior citizens in Massachusetts and Connecticut as a certified financial adviser, and informed them that he owned an investment firm called Freedom Financial. **BALDO** told them that if they invested their money with him, they would enjoy handsome returns. More specifically, **BALDO** told them that if they liquidated their assets and their bank accounts, he would consolidate their funds in an annuity account, from which they would receive generous periodic distributions.

Based on these representations, three individuals liquidated their assets and turned the funds over by check addressed to Freedom Financial. The checks totaled over \$1.9 million from November 2005 to December 2006. Rather than investing the money, **BALDO** spent it all on himself, including on luxury cars, gambling, night club visits, trips to Las Vegas, and lavish gifts for dancers at strip clubs he frequented, as well as his everyday living expenses.

BALDO is scheduled to be sentenced on April 24, 2008.

The case is being investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation - New England Field Division. It is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jon Mitchell in Sullivan's Economic Crimes Unit.

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